

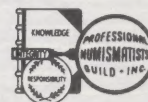
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Life Member  
A. N. A.



12-18-92

Dear Eric.

Cant recall if I ever sent you this copy, but felt you should have it.  
Additionally, it gives me to wish you and your a HAPPY CHANNUKAK and a most delightful  
1993.....Stay Well.....

Harry

RARE COIN COLLECTIONS BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED • MINT ERRORS • GOLD COINS • PAPER MONEY  
• BRILLIANT UNC. ROLLS • PROOF SETS •



## THE 1804 DOLLAR (?)

**A**S THE years roll by and one by one, Numismatic frauds and fakes are being thrown out of the cabinets of all discerning collectors, we deem that the time has come for the final disposition of that king of all fakes, the alleged 1804 Dollar. It is a well established fact that no dollars were coined by the U. S. in 1804, those bearing this date being charitably designated as "restrikes," and were undoubtedly struck since steam coinage was invented or from 1836 to 1860. The dies went out of the possession of the Government for several weeks, presumably not to be admired, but for the purpose of striking copies for dispersal and sale. The ones in the Philadelphia Mint collection are obviously modern frauds (again charitably called "restrikes") and any and all so-called 1804 Dollars that ever turned up, CANNOT be traced or authenticated. There is also no doubt but that the so-called "Dollars" were at no time connected with the regular U. S. coinage, nor were they legally issued as dollars at any time. Some were struck at the Mint, in about the year 1860 through the political influence of R. L. Stuart, the old sugar refiner, and other noted collectors of that period, but the coinage of them aroused such a disturbance, that most all of them were returned to the Government, but there is no evidence that they ever reached the melting-pot. It is no unusual thing for alleged 1804 Dollars to turn up from time to time in Germany or elsewhere, from ex-employees of the Mint or their estates. Regarding the one that was purchased in Philadelphia for the late J. B. Dexter of Colorado, when the purchaser discovered its fishy authenticity, he commenced suit for the purchase price and the decision as to its genuineness, was left to Mint employees, who never were nor ever will be experts or numismatists in any sense of the word. They decided (?) that because it contained the proper amount of silver and "looked natural" that it was genuine. So they did with the notorious 1823 counterfeit cent, also by your leave called "restrike." On one occasion when such a piece was seized at a coin sale, these wise experts (?) declared that it got out by mistake, when the facts of the case are that the cent was coined OUTSIDE the Mint from cast-off dies formerly sold as junk, one of 1823 obverse being muled with a reverse of about 1818. So it was upon the judgment of such eminent (?) authorities, that Mr. Dexter discontinued his suit and this particular coin was left in his possession.

Even the Parmelee 1804 Dollar which had the reputation of being the most perfect and reliable specimen of its kind, and formerly supposed to be genuine, was sold without guarantee when the Parmelee collection was sold at Public Auction in 1890, the cataloguers merely quoting the description of Mr. Cogan from the Sandford Sale catalogue in 1874. Mr. Cogan himself never really believed that there EVER were any 1804 Dollars, for he says in his "Table of Gold, Silver and Copper coins NOT issued by the U. S. Mint," (page 4.) "No Dollars issued from 1804 to 1835 INCLUSIVE." To return to the Parmelee dollar, even with its great reputation, having been used for comparison with all others, only sold for \$570.00 and would not have realized nearly as much were it not for the fact that MR. BYRON REED, a millionaire collector, "supposed" he needed it to complete his set of dollars. So the 1804 dollars that crop up from time to time, as they stand to-day, even if genuine, could not be classed as rare as many other American coins, from point of number, and it remains the "boogaboo" of all American collectors. Even the Mint records of coinage of that particular period do not refer to the dates on the coins struck during any past year, as dies were used till worn out, otherwise we would have dollars of 1805 and half-dollars of 1810, while half-dollars of 1815 would be unknown, instead of being easily obtained, showing lack of value of Government records of coinage of dates.

The prominent dealers have declared for many years "no authentic originals known, all die frauds of one kind or another" or as the little red book says "Restrikes, none believed to have been struck in the years they are dated \$150.00." So in summing up let us state that the genuine 1804 Dollar is a myth, originated by unscrupulous coin dealers, and fostered by an ignorant press, and all numismatists should take warning and refrain from encouraging such chicanery, and relegate the 1804 Dollar, (?) the 1823 Cent restrike (?) and the 1795 Jefferson Cent (?) to the melting-pot or junk-box where such fakes and frauds properly belong. The carefully prepared list of 1804 Dollars which the Hon. John A. Nixon printed in the Journal of Numismatics some years ago, contained just 13 specimens, but as 13 is a somewhat unlucky number, let us add 8 more, making 21 known, for just eight more have turned up since that time and there may be "others."

GEOFFREY CHARLTON ADAMS, M. A.

[Paper to be read before The Chicago Numismatic Society, at meeting September 2d, 1904.]